

Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 JUN 2005

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



10/54075A

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/072737 A3

(43) International Publication Date
26 August 2004 (26.08.2004)

PCT

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

G03F 7/20

(72) Inventors; and

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2003/010233

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(22) International Filing Date:

15 September 2003 (15.09.2003)

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(25) Filing Language:

English

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

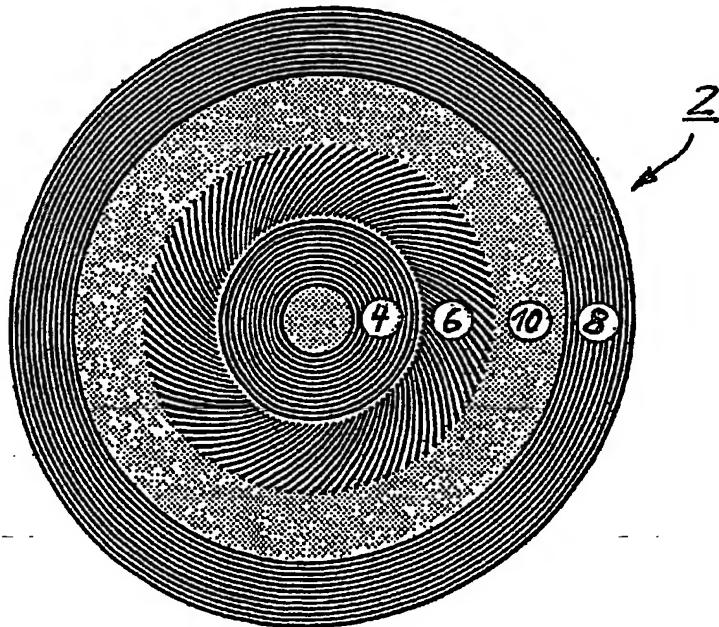
(26) Publication Language:

English

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR GENERATING A CIRCULAR PERIODIC STRUCTURE ON A BASIC SUPPORT MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: The aim of the invention is to provide a method allowing generation of periodic curved structures in a basic support material such as the basic layer for the magnetic bit cells of a magnetic storage device. This aim is achieved according to the invention by a method for generating a periodic circular structure for a support (12) for a magnetic storage device, comprising: a) generating a number of masks with each mask having at least one transmission diffraction gratings (4, 6, 8, 20 to 34, 38, 42, 46) each having a different periodic concentric circular and/or spiral-like periodic pattern and/or a periodic radial spoke pattern; b) positioning of one or more of said diffraction masks (4, 6, 8, 20 to 34, 38, 42, 46) simultaneously or successively in a certain distance of a basic support material (12) to be patterned; c) applying light beams through each of the diffraction masks (4, 6, 8, 20 to 34, 38, 42, 46) for exposing the basic support material to said light beam; d) interfering the different light beams diffracted by the

gratings on each mask in order to generate coincident light intensity pattern on the surface of the basic support material (12); and e) optionally repeating the exposure procedure a number of times with different masks to obtain a desired pattern of a periodic circular structure with possible partitioning in the circumferential direction.

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ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
3 March 2005

Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/10233

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G03F 7/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G02B G03F G11B G21K H01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, COMPENDEX, INSPEC, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 360 586 A (SMITH HENRY I ET AL) 23 November 1982 (1982-11-23) column 1, line 20 – line 21 column 2, line 67 – column 3, line 16 column 5, line 50 – line 56 abstract; claim 7; figure 2 -----	1,4-6
X	WO 98/12603 A (HERZIG HANS PETER ; BLATTNER PETER (CH); VOELKEL REINHARD (CH); HUGLE) 26 March 1998 (1998-03-26) page 1, line 18 – page 2, line 19 page 3, line 8 – page 4, line 30 figures 2-5 -----	1,4-6
X	EP 0 352 975 A (AMERICAN TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH) 31 January 1990 (1990-01-31) page 4, line 7 – line 36 figures 1,2 -----	1,4-6

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 December 2004

Date of mailing of the International search report

07/01/2005

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 03/10233

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 415 835 A (BRUECK STEVEN R J ET AL) 16 May 1995 (1995-05-16) abstract; figures column 4, line 20 - line 30 -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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